

## SPSO decision report

**Case:** 201808122, Lothian NHS Board - Acute Division  
**Sector:** health  
**Subject:** clinical treatment / diagnosis  
**Decision:** upheld, no recommendations

### Summary

Mr C complained that St Johns Hospital did not provide reasonable treatment to his late father (Mr A) during his hospital admission. During admission Mr A received an incorrect dose of paracetamol which the hospital recognised and responded to. The board determined that the medication error was not a contributory factor to Mr A's death.

We took independent advice from a consultant geriatrician (a doctor who specialises in medicine of the elderly). We found while the general treatment provided to Mr A was reasonable, a significant error occurred, leading to Mr A receiving an overdose of paracetamol. Therefore, we upheld the complaint. We noted that the board have already taken action to address this failing so made no further recommendations.